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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 11, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REGULATE THE REGULATORS— THE REINS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. The regulators continue their reign of regulation terror on businesses across America.

Jerry McKinney, from Crosby, Texas, wrote me this:

I work in the industrial chemical business and I see the result of government regulations like those from the EPA. These cost my company good money, with no positive effects.

Larry, a doctor from Kingwood, Texas, said this to me:

Small businesses need relief from the ridiculous OSHA standards. Our veterinary practice is having to spend hours and money trying to decipher all the regulations some bureaucrat has dreamed up to justify his job.

Madam Speaker, the fourth branch of government meddles in every aspect of our lives. In the name of saving us from ourselves, the regulators regulate, regulate, and when they're through, they regulate some more, without regard to the consequences of these expensive government mandates. Sometimes they put businesses out of business because of their regulations.

Dana, from southeast Texas, writes me this:

I owned a business—bought a bowling center, my dream job, in 2007. Was totally unprepared for the amount of regulation and fees and taxes. I employed 32 people. I went bankrupt in October of 2012 because of this. I have the drive and desire and a great business plan for a new business that would employ 20 to 30 people, but I'm not sure I want to dive back into all this.

Michael, from Houston, said:

Where should I begin? Real estate market is flooded with, yes, new regulations. It seems that banks are prevented from foreclosing on homeowners who are basically living in the house for free for several years.

Susan, a small business owner in Texas, says this:

Our small business has operated on a shoestring for several years, and we started way back in 1978, but I fear we are at an end. We manufacture 400 products, all made from the same materials. But the new product safety regulations require we certify every product to the tune of about \$500 per product, even though they're all made from the same materials. Do the math: \$175,000 or more just to get these same products that we've been making since 1978 certified by the Federal Government. Add on the health care fines and the rising cost of gasoline and the rising property and sales taxes and income taxes—well, you know the rest of the story.

Madam Speaker, this ought not to be—regulators putting businesses out of business by dreaming up new, sometimes silly rules that don't solve any

problem. The regulators dream up new rules to add to their 100,000 commandments every day.

Regulators regulate. That's what they do. That's what they like to do. But their addiction to power and to new, unnecessary rules must stop. Burdensome, expensive Federal regulations cost \$2 trillion a year. What does that mean? That's the same amount of money all American citizens and corporations paid in income tax in 2008—\$2 trillion. A lot of money.

Regulators have no concept of the cost of running a business. They don't even understand the rules and business costs that can put some American businesses out of business. So Congress should approve any regulation that reaches a certain cost threshold or has a significant economic impact. That's why I'm an original cosponsor of the REINS Act. The REINS Act requires Congress, the elected, to approve the expensive rules of the unelected or the rules will not take effect. If a new rule affects the economy in the United States over \$100 million throughout the country, Congress must approve this new rule or it does not take effect by the rulemakers.

We should make new rules for the rulemakers. That's what our responsibility is. So it's time for Congress to rein in the out-of-control government and start regulating regulators.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ANNE SMEDINGHOFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on Sunday, April 6, at 11 a.m., America lost five of our best and brightest in Afghanistan when the convoy they were traveling in, along with an Afghan doctor, was attacked by a suicide bomber. One of them, 25-

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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